Urban Sanitary District
Sandwich Kent
Annual Report year 1896.

Gent.ⁿ

I have the honor to present the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Boro' of Sandwich for the year ending 31st. December 1896 – the area of the District is 756 acres and the population according to the Census of 1891 was 2794 – distributed in the various Parishes as follows St. Peters 1010 St. Marys 914 St. Clement 833 St. Bartholomews 37. I may perhaps at once say that from a Sanitary and Public Health point of view the year 1896 has been a particularly satisfactory one, there has been no Epidemic disease of any kind – no mortality from any Zymotic disease, the lowest death rate during my eleven years of office and at the same time about the highest birth rate

The number of deaths from all causes during the year was 39 this includes one case of suicide leaving the number of deaths from age and disease 38 which gives a death rate per thousand of 13-6. As regards Parishes 16 deaths occurred in St. Peters 10 in St. Marys 11 St. Clement 1 St. Bartholomews – In point of time 10 occurred during the first quarter of the year 7 in the second 8 in the third – 14 in the last. the chief mortality therefore occurring in the last quarter as opposed to the first quarter of 1895 –

The number of deaths during the past 5 years.

1892	45
1893.	40
1894	50
1895	53
1896.	38

The number of births during the year was 87
46 male 41 female which gives a birth rate
rather over 32 per thousand as compared
with 25 per thousand for 1895.

Number of births during the last 5 years.

1892	78
1893	73
1894	80
1895	71
1896	87.

The following is a summary of deaths
extracted from the Registrars list for 1896.

Heart Disease	5
Senile Degeneration	5
Phthisis.	1
Cancer	3.
Bronchitis	5.
Premature birth	2.
Chronic Enteritis	1
Pernicious Anaemia	1
Apoplexy	2
	25

Summary of deaths continued.

No. brought forward	25.
Syncope (Inquest)	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1
Softening of brain	2
Chronic Brights	1
Marasmus	2
Jaundice	1
Diarrhoea	1
Stricture Oesophagus	1
Suicide (Inquest)	1
Chronic Hepatitis	1
Hip Disease	1
Cirhosis of Liver	1
	39

It will be observed that during the year six deaths occurred in infants under twelve months, which is rather excessive but on closer examination it appears that two deaths occurred in twins prematurely born about 7th month of the four others two died from marasmus, one Bronchitis one diarrhoea, Six deaths were reported from diseases of Respiratory System one from Phthisis age 46 5 from bronchitis, Heart Disease Caused 5 deaths, which is certainly a high rate, and Cancer 3. Influenza this year does not appear to have been directly fatal and its secondary effects have been considerably less marked although it has been present in various forms throughout the year.

Six deaths occurred between 70 and 80 years.
Three " " " 80 " 90 "
one " " " 90 " 100 "

The latter in the Parish of St. Clement the widow of a master mariner.

As before mentioned no death occurred from Zymotic disease and during the year there were only eight cases notified 3 of scarlet fever 3 of Erysipelas 2 typhoid. The scarlet fever cases were in one family who contracted the disease while camping out in the Hop fields, when ill they came into the town and on the disease manifesting itself arrangements were made and their removal effected to the Union Infirmary disinfectant measures were immediately carried out and no extension of the disease has occurred.
One case of typhoid occurred in a child in the house of the Public Scavenger - no other child or occupant of the house suffered. no positive cause could be discovered on inspection of the premises and enquiry. the occupation of the father was probably nothing more than suggestive the second case was slight and isolated no other people in house or locality suffered and cause of infection was not traceable.

Influenza was present in an attenuated form throughout the year but chiefly during the first quarter in a gastric form with sore throat. In March several cases of chicken pox were seen also mumps. In July very general diarrhoea was present (during very hot season).

Occasional complaints of irregularity in emptying the boxes have been received but on the whole the scavenging appears to be done satisfactorily. The abolition of the cesspool arrangement and substitution of earth boxes and urinals at the Board Schools was a very necessary improvement. The customary inspections have been made from time to time of Slaughter houses, Piggeries, Dairies and Lodging Houses and the reports of their condition has been more satisfactory than in past years. no written complaint has been made of the offensive condition of any of these. but untrapped drains in Mile Wall Place gave rise to considerable complaint and on being investigated by the Inspector led to a satisfactory alteration since which time no further complaint has been received, a similar condition occurred in St. Peters Street which at the present time is under consideration.

With the exception of 16 all the houses in the Boro are now supplied with water from the Public Supply 14 of these still draw from the Dell and two from private springs. the analysis of samples of these taken has not hitherto condemned the use, although the remarks by analyst have shown them open to suspicion. It should perhaps be noted that the present year is the first year of the general use of the new water supply and the year also of the lowest death rate I have recorded. no doubt it is premature to associate these facts as cause and effect, but in a Report of this kind I should perhaps note the coincidence.

Your obedient Servant
John W. Harrison

WB